



# Choices to make

## Friends

### Teaching Aim

To show that good friends are a blessing but bad friends cause trouble.

### Setting the Scene

We all need friends. God does not intend us to be lonely. In Genesis He saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone so He made a helper, Eve, for him. Good friends can really help us in life but if we choose wrong friends they can get us into trouble.

### Be Friendly

Read 1Samuel 18:1 -4, The best way to make friends is to be friendly yourself.

**Q.** Who decided to be David's friend? - Jonathan v1

Jonathan didn't care that he was a prince and David was a poor man. He wanted to be his friend so Jonathan decided to be David's friend. If you want to have friends you need to talk to others and be friendly to them. Often people say "nobody spoke to me at CE" but they didn't speak to anybody themselves.

**Q.** What did Jonathan see David do in 1Samuel 17? - Kill Goliath

Jonathan saw David do something that was good and godly. God wanted him to kill Goliath so David obeyed. Jonathan wanted to be his friend because David was someone who obeyed God. He didn't care about the colour of his skin or how much money he had but he did care that he was godly. You need to choose friends who want to please God.

**Q.** What did Jonathan give to David in 1Samuel 18:4? - His robe, his tunic, his sword, his bow and his belt.

Jonathan's friendship was not just about words. He cared enough to share things that were special to him with David. You need to learn to share with friends too if your friendship is to grow. If you are moody and secretive, then nobody will want to know you.

### Be Loyal

Read 1Samuel 19:1 - 7

**Q.** What did Saul want to do? - Kill David.

**Q.** What did Jonathan do? - He stood up for David and he warned him about Saul's plans. Later in Chapter 20 Jonathan saved David's life.

It is important to be loyal to your friends. You need to stand up for them when others make fun of them. You have to do all you can to promote their good. In chapter 20 when Jonathan arranged to meet David he did it even though it was a hard thing to do because of Saul's anger. You must keep your promises to your friends and be there when you say you will no matter what else comes up. Far

too often people let a friend down because another friend comes up with a better offer. The 10 pin bowling seems more exciting than the night helping your mate study maths. A real friend keeps his or her word to a friend no matter what comes up.

## Be Careful

Read Deuteronomy 13:6 - 8

**Q.** What could the friend in v6 try to make you do? - Worship false gods

**Q.** What should you do? v3 - Not listen to them but obey God instead.

Sometimes friends can try to make you do things that you know to be wrong. They may encourage you to take drink or drugs. They may want you to help them steal things. They make fun of you and try to stop you going to church or CE. You must not listen to such friends. You must listen to God's word instead. In fact it is better not to make close friends with people who want you to do wrong things. You have to talk to them to tell them about Jesus but you should make sure that your closest friends are friends who know right from wrong. The best place to make good friends who are godly is in CE, Sunday school, school CU, church etc. If you are shy and find it hard to make friends, remember that Jesus is the friend who will be closer to you than any human friend. (Pr 18:24).

## Be Patient

Sometimes teenagers want to rush into relationships with the opposite sex. They are always out on the "pull". It is much better to form friendships with groups of people of both sexes. Then if God wants a relationship to develop it can grow out of a normal friendship in His time and in a natural way.

## Summing Up

Friends are very important to everyone. You need to try to make friends because good friends will help you to become a Christian if you don't know Jesus or to grow in Christ if you do. The most important thing is to choose good friends and then to stick by them.

## Resources

### Discussion

The following questions could be discussed as the topic develops or at the end in small groups which would report back to all members.

- Why is it important to have friends?
- What do you look for in a friend?
- If a "friend" asked you to get involved in something wrong what would you say and do?
- Is it more important to you to have a number of friends or would you rather have a "boyfriend/girlfriend"? Why?

### Prayer Points

Thank God for:

- Making other people we can be friendly with.
- The friends you have